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Hudson Square on 'Rise'

Community members who undertook the "Envisioning Hudson Square" design project last fall to imagine the future of the fledgling neighborhood just received a nod for their work in soliciting ambitious architectural renderings for the area: One of the firms hired to look at Hudson Square's development future — Zakrzewski + Hyde Architects, in association with Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners — last week won the American Institute of Architects' annual Design Award for its conceptual take on neighborhood.

The firm's vision, "Hudson Square Rise," featured functional, elevated, open green space linking the area's large industrial holdovers, including the massive St. John's Center, to the Hudson River Park and nearby Pier 40.

Community opposition to a proposed three-district sanitation facility in Hudson Square originally spurred the project "charrette," which included four other architectural firms' designs.

"We are hopeful that some or all of this award-winning 'Hudson Rise' design will be incorporated in the final design process" for the neighborhood, said charrette project manager Michael Kramer, noting the need for a "better way" to integrate the sanitation facility. "The charrette was designed to be a conversation-starter. Hopefully the city is listening and will allow for a 'consensus-building' solution."

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